Students seeking admission in universities

611. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that with the fast growing population in the country, the number of students seeking admission to various colleges in the Indian universities is fast multiplying as compared to previous years;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of deserving students, having secured more than 80 per cent marks in the Senior Secondary School Exams, were not able to get admission in the colleges of their choice in Delhi University in the current year; and

(c) if so, the measures Government propose to take in the near future to construct more and more college buildings all over the country in order to tackle the problem and save the young brilliant students from frustration and depression?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir. According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), during the academic year 2004-05, there were 104.81 lakhs (provisional) students enrolled in various courses at all levels in Universities/colleges and other institutions of higher learning as compared to 99.54 lakhs in the previous year.

(b) Admission in colleges is made on *inter-se* merit obtained by students in Senior Secondary School Examination. Due to the finite number of seats in colleges and number of applications, it is always not possible to admit all those who apply.

(c) In order to increase capacity of higher education, outlay for development is increased continuously.

Review of Education Policy

612. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to review the education policy in order to upgrade the standard of education

in Government Schools right from the first standard onward keeping in view the interests of the poor children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government would reconsider the education policy in order to safeguard the interests of the poor children, especially those living in the villages of our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The issues of quality have always been central to educational policy. It has been the Ministry's endeavour to ensure continuous and sustained improvement in the quality of education at all levels. The concerns regarding quality and equity are continuously addressed by the Central and State Governments through appropriate interventions in education at all levels.

The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 (as modified in 1992) provides for a National System of Education, which implies that up to a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality. It also accords priority for improvement of the standard of education at all levels.

The NPE recognises that the rural areas, with poor infrastructure services, will not get the benefit of trained and educated youth, unless rural-urban disparities are reduced and determined measures are taken to promote diversification and dispersal of employment opportunities. Pursuant to this, a large number of schemes are under various stages of implementation, which predominantly address the educational needs or rural areas including technical education.

Pace-setting residential schools, Navodaya Vidyalayas, have been established in most parts of the country on a given pattern, but with full scope for innovation and experimentation. Their broad aim will continue to be to serve the objective of excellence coupled with equity and social justice (with reservation for the rural areas, SCs and STs), to promote national integration by providing opportunities to talented children from different parts of the country, to live and learn together, to develop their full potential, and, most importantly, to become catalysts of a nation-wide programme of school improvement.

Article 15 (5) of the Constitution inserted through the Constitution (93rd Amendment) Act, 2005, enables appropriate laws to be made for the advancement of the weaker sections in matters of admission to all educational institutions, including private unaided professional educational institutions, except minority institutions. Some of the States have enacted laws to regulate fee in educational institutions, including private unaided educational institutions. A proposal in this regard is under the consideration of the Government for a Central law to give effect to the Constitutional provision, under which differential fee can also be prescribed for the weaker sections.

Grants to universities in Tamil Nadu

613. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of grants/financial assistance provided to universities in Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(b) whether any special assistance is being provided to universities categorized as 'rural universities'; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) A Statement furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC) showing grants paid by the UGC to Universities in Tamil Nadu during the last three years *i.e.* 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 under Plan and Non-Plan schemes is annexed (*See* below).

(b) and (c) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), while the Commission does not provide any special assistance under the category of 'Rural Universities', it has a scheme for providing assistance to institutions in the backward areas. A University located in backward district can receive grants upto Rs. 70.00 lakhs for improving infrastructure. In Tamil Nadu, Gandhigram Rural Institute, which is an institution deemed to be University receives financial assistance from the UGC for development as well as maintenance requirements.